

News Release
U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Rhode Island



June 26, 2006



**South Kingstown man is sentenced for
trading crack cocaine for guns**

A federal judge has sentenced **Tyson D. Ford**, 22, of South Kingstown, to 84 months in prison for drug trafficking and being a felon in possession of a firearm. In February, Ford admitted that he traded crack cocaine for guns in a hotel parking lot in South Kingstown in October.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which Chief U.S. District Court Judge Ernest C. Torres imposed on June 23 in U.S. District Court, Providence.

At a plea hearing in February, Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter F. Neronha said that the government could prove that, on October 5, Ford met at a hotel in South Kingstown with an undercover agent of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). Ford gave the agent about 13.5 grams of crack cocaine and \$500 in cash and took six handguns – five 9 millimeter pistols and one 380 caliber pistol – from the trunk of the agent's car. ATF agents and South Kingstown Police officers then arrested Ford.

Ford pled guilty to distributing crack cocaine and being a felon in possession of a firearm. He has a prior felony conviction for drug trafficking.

ATF and South Kingstown Police investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Neronha is prosecuting it as part of **Project Safe Neighborhoods**, a Department of Justice

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initiative against gun crimes. Under Project Safe Neighborhoods, the U.S. Attorney's Office, working with ATF, the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office, and other agencies, aggressively prosecutes federal firearms offenses in an effort to incarcerate those responsible for gun violence and deter others from committing gun crimes. Since 2001, federal firearms prosecutions in Rhode Island have more than doubled and gun offenders have been sentenced to a total of more than 700 years in federal prison.

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